

MACAULAY'S CHARACTER OF WILLIAM III
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It is impossible to have more chagrin than I have at all the difficulties you meet with everywhere and at my present incapacity to make things a little easier for you. I see that they are annoyed in Holland and fear unhappy results, which we must work as hard as we can to prevent, and, for the rest, leave the issue to Divine Providence and not be too annoyed. It is a lesson I need as much as you do. The difficulties here are incredible. God knows whether they are insurmountable.¹

Both of them must stick to their task till the end. Wai-deck must not dream of resigning.

You know that it is an impossibility without the greatest prejudice in the world not only to the state but to the public good. I acknowledge that your employment is very difficult, and often gives you just causes of annoyance, and if this were not a duty due to God I should long ago have had the same thought which you have, although I am not your age, for assuredly I have too heavy a burden, my shoulders are not strong enough to support it, and without the miraculous assistance from above I well foresee that I shall succumb. The good God can give you the strength necessary to support your burden, as you have done so well up till now. And for the love of His cause I beg you no longer to entertain this thought of retiring, but to think now of the next campaign in order that this winter we can get everything ready and take such measures that we shall have reason to hope that the coming year will be happier for us than this.³

William's difficulties were far greater than those of Waldeck. Waldeck had the task of facing stronger forces with a weaker and more heterogeneous army. William's task was not alone to wage a foreign war, but also to reorganise the government of England, subdue a rebellion in Scotland, and reconquer Ireland. But his greatest difficulties arose

¹ Miiller, ii. **143**, 156, 158, 168,

² Ibid. 177-8,